




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.26 am): I see the member for Glass House but I hear the member for Kawana. Not much has changed on the other side. This motion is put up as an orderly and modern way of organising business in the Legislative Assembly. If you had listened to the member for Glass House, you would have thought that all the issues were about the chairs. I recall that when the member for Glass House was my shadow he was at times one of the most aggressive and least respectful members when it came to people chairing the estimates committees. He can complain all he likes but I remember his record. He is not pure as the driven snow on that one, and he is smiling at me right now because he knows I am right.

I am not going to take up a lot of time here. We need to get on to substantive issues. It is disappointing to see the opposition continue this silly tactic to chew up time in this House. They say that debating time is valuable and that they are being guillotined, yet they always chew up this 20 or 25 minutes trying to allege some sort of conspiracy of anti-democracy when this is standard procedure in parliaments right across this country and in fact right across the Westminster system.

It is a case of the opposition needing to prioritise their speakers. I have been in here many times and have heard opposition speeches that are almost identical. They dust off the notes and they want to get their little speech up, but we hear the same thing six, seven or eight times by the end of the bill. That is not enhancing democracy; that is not even enhancing debate. That is laziness. The opposition need to prioritise their speakers, as any decent opposition would do. They clearly are afraid of their own backbench and of having a bit of discipline and a bit of backbone because they are obviously beholden to them.

I endorse the motion moved by the Leader of the House. This is normal parliamentary business. Let us not waste more time on procedural, arcane machinery and let us get on to real debates on substantial matters.